

## PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 10 SEP 2004



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Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)

Applicant's or agent's file reference MJD/63009/001		<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/02541	International filing date (day/month/year) 13.06.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 13.06.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC G03B21/00			
Applicant STREETBROADCAST LTD et al.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.  
  
☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 11 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
  - II ☐ Priority
  - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
  - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
  - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  13.01.2004	Date of completion of this report  08.09.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer  Bähr, A  Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2480  

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/GB 03/02541**

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1, 3-6, 9-21 as originally filed  
2, 2a, 7, 7a, 8 filed with telefax on 27.08.2004

**Claims, Numbers**

1-30 filed with telefax on 27.08.2004

**Drawings, Sheets**

1-11 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☒ the claims, Nos.: 31  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1 - 22, 23 - 27, 28, 29 - 30
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1 - 22, 23 - 27, 28, 29 - 30
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1 - 22, 23 - 27, 28, 29 - 30
	No: Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/GB 03/02541

The application relates to a display unit for mounting on a post (claims 1 to 22), to a display unit with a mount (claims 23 to 27), to a kit of parts for assembling a display unit (claim 28) and to a display frame mounted on an erected post (claims 29 and 30).

Such a display unit according to the preamble of each independent claim is known from D1: GB 2 365 611 A, considered therefore as the closest prior art. D2: EP 0 322 302 A2 discloses a display carrier in an elevated position which can be lowered to facilitate changing of the poster, wherein a weight is provided for counterbalancing the display carrier.

**Novelty:** Neither D1 nor D2 disclose a rainwater channel. Hence, the subject matter of all independent claims is therefore new with respect to the disclosure of D1 or D2 (Article 33(2) PCT).

**Inventive step:** The present application solves the problem of rainwater running down the post onto which the display unit is mounted, which rainwater could harm the displayed material or the interior of the display unit.

According to D1 this problem is solved by a sealing ring being compressed by the two halves forming the top cover of the display unit housing to prevent the water from entering the interior of the unit. D2 is completely silent about the problem of rainwater entering the display unit.

The solution to the rainwater problem provided by the present application, a rainwater channel to guide the rainwater in a controlled manner through the display unit is entirely different from the prior art. It advantageously avoids the problem of having a seal which could develop a leakage over the years of exposure to ambient weather conditions. Such a different technical solution does not result in an obvious manner from the disclosure of D1. Since D2 is silent about this problem at all, also a combination of D1 and D2 cannot give any indication towards the claimed solution.

Hence, the subject matter of the independent claims involves an inventive step with respect to the disclosure of D1 (Article 33(3) PCT).

The same applies to claims 2 to 22, 24 to 27 and 30 dependent from the above claims. The **industrial applicability** of a display unit as claimed in the present application is obvious (Article 33(4) PCT).

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It is known from GB 2365611 to provide an internally illuminated sign comprising a frame and at least one transparent window. The frame and transparent window constitute a weather proof housing which may be opened downwardly. A poster receiving and holding means is provided which is vertically slidable in the housing. The pre-characterising features of claim 1 are known from this document.

10 It is known from EP 0322302 to provide a display carrier which facilitates the display of a poster in an elevated position. The display carrier may be lowered to facilitate changing of the poster. A weight is provided to counterbalance the display carrier.

15 Viewed from a first aspect the present invention provides a display unit for mounting on a post, the display unit comprising a mount mountable on the post, a top cover and a display carrier for displaying a poster or a sign, the display carrier being movably coupled to the mount; wherein, in use, the display carrier is locatable in a first position for displaying the poster or sign, the display carrier being movably coupled to the mount; and is movable to a second position, lower than the first position, for changing the poster or sign; characterised in that the display unit further comprises a rainwater channel for mounting around the post, the rainwater channel, in use, protecting the internal surfaces of the display unit from any water running down the surface of the post.

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Thus, the poster or sign may be changed by lowering the display carrier relative to the mount. Preferably, the second position is at or proximal to ground level so that the poster or sign may be changed without the need for a ladder or lifting apparatus. The post is preferably a lamppost.

The display unit is preferably provided with a display surface for displaying the poster or sign. The display surface may be provided behind the poster or sign to provide support. Alternatively, the display surface may be at least partially transparent and located in front of the sign or poster. The sign or poster is preferably removably attached to the display surface. The display surface is preferably defined by a sheet element, although it may equally be defined by a frame member or frame assembly. If the display surface is defined by a sheet element, the sheet element is preferably at least partially transparent. The display surface is preferably substantially the same size and/or shape as the poster or sign.

Preferably, the display carrier is suspended from the mount.

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or poster is preferably removably attached to the display surface.

The display unit preferably also has at least one aperture through which the poster or the sign is viewed.

According to a still further aspect of the present invention there is provided a display unit comprising a mount, a top cover and a display carrier for displaying a poster or a sign, the display carrier being movably coupled to the mount, wherein, in use, the display carrier is locatable in a first position for displaying the poster or sign, and is movable to a second position, lower than the first position, for changing the poster or sign; characterised in that the display unit comprises a mechanism for at least partially counter-balancing the weight of the display carrier, or for biasing the display carrier towards said first position; the display unit apparatus further comprising a rainwater channel for mounting around the post, the rainwater channel, in use, protecting the internal surfaces of the display unit from any water running down the surface of the post.

According to a yet still further aspect of the present invention there is provided a display frame mounted on an erected post whereby the post has holes aligned horizontally and a threaded rod or pin is inserted through the aligned holes and retained in position, the display frame further comprising sign changing means having a sign or poster carrier assembly attached to a drop-down support legs such that the sign or poster carrier assembly can be

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lowered from the display frame; characterised in that the apparatus further comprises a circular profile tube which is used as a rainwater channel and has holes which align with the horizontally aligned holes in the post, and a top cover moulding is fitted to the post prior to attachment of the other display frame components.

This arrangement allows the downward motion of the display carrier to be more readily controlled and, thus, improves the safety of the display unit.



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According to a still further aspect of the present invention there is provided a means for mounting a display frame on an erected post whereby the post has holes aligned horizontally which may be integral with the post prior to installation, a threaded rod or pin is inserted through the aligned holes and retained in position, preferably there are provided two sets of aligned holes in spaced relation, one above the other with a threaded rod or pin inserted and retained in each set of aligned holes, a circular profile tube which is used as a rain water channel and has holes which align with the horizontally aligned holes in the post, and a top cover moulding are fitted to the post prior to attachment of the other display unit components.

Preferably, there are provided two sets of aligned holes in spaced relation, one above the other with a threaded rod or pin inserted and retained in each set of aligned holes. With the preferred embodiment, a circular profile tube which is used as a rain water channel and has holes which align with the horizontally aligned holes in the post, and a top cover moulding are fitted to the post prior to attachment of the other display unit components.

Preferably, located at the top of the main chassis and mounted on the upper front and rear plates are several spring loaded constant pull retraction devices known to be used for signage support. Although these are located in this position they could also easily be attached inside the drop-down support leg and at the lower position of the sign or poster carrier.

Preferably, each drop-down support leg is

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CLAIMS:

1. A display unit (1) for mounting on a post (2), the display unit comprising a mount (21) mountable on the post; a top cover (17) and a display carrier (41) for displaying a poster or a sign, the display carrier being movably coupled to the mount; wherein, in use, the display carrier is locatable in a first position for displaying the poster or sign, the display carrier being movably coupled to the mount; and is movable to a second position, lower than the first position, for changing the poster or sign; characterised in that the display unit further comprises a rainwater channel (19) for mounting around the post, the rainwater channel, in use, protecting the internal surfaces of the display unit from any water running down the surface of the post.
2. A display unit (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second position is at or proximal to ground level.
3. A display unit (1) as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the display carrier (41) is suspended from the mount.
4. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the display carrier (41) is suspended substantially within the mount (21), when located in said first position.
5. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the display carrier (41) is located

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substantially vertically below the mount, when located in said second position.

6. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the display carrier (41) is lowerable substantially vertically from the mount from the first position to the second position.

7. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the display carrier (41) comprises at least one display surface (77, 79) and said at least one display surface is visible through an aperture in the display unit (21), when located in said first position.

8. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the display carrier (41) and the mount (21) are oriented substantially concentrically.

9. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising at least one guide member (50) to guide the display carrier (41).

10. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the display carrier (41) is constrained to move coaxially with regard to the display unit.

11. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the display carrier (41) is suspended from the mount by at least one support element (63).

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12. A display unit (1) as claimed in claim 11 in which each support element (63) is attached along the upper edge of the display carrier.
13. A display unit (1) as claimed in claims 11 and 12, wherein each support element (63) is a wire.
14. A display unit (1) as claimed in any one of claims 11, 12 or 13 wherein the at least one support element (63) biases the display carrier (41), in use, towards said first position.
15. A display unit (1) as claimed in any of claims 11 to 14, wherein each support element (63) is self-retracting.
16. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim comprising a biasing mechanism (65) for biasing the display carrier (41) towards said first position.
17. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim comprising a counter-balance mechanism for at least partially counter-balancing the weight of the display carrier (41).
18. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim which is oval or elliptical in transverse cross-section.
19. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising a display surface (77, 79), wherein said display surface is sized to receive a 4 sheet poster.

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20. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising a display surface (77, 79), wherein said display surface is sized to receive a 6 sheet poster.

21. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim, provided with at least one light.

22. A display unit (1) as claimed in claim 21, wherein the at least one light is a backlight.

23. A display unit (1) comprising a mount (21), a top cover (17) and a display carrier (41) for displaying a poster or a sign, the display carrier being movably coupled to the mount, wherein, in use, the display carrier is locatable in a first position for displaying the poster or sign, and is movable to a second position, lower than the first position, for changing the poster or sign; characterised in that the display unit comprises a mechanism (65) for at least partially counter-balancing the weight of the display carrier, or for biasing the display carrier towards said first position; the display unit further comprising a rainwater channel (19) for mounting around the post, the rainwater channel, in use, protecting the internal surfaces of the display unit from any water running down the surface of the post.

24. A display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim in combination with a lamppost (2), wherein the display unit is fixedly mounted on the lamppost.

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25. A display unit (1) as claimed in claim 24, wherein the display unit is provided with two display surfaces (77, 79) provided on opposite sides of the lamppost (2).

26. A display unit (1) as claimed in claim 24 or claim 25, wherein the lamppost (2) has a transverse hole provided therethrough, said mount (21) comprising a threaded bolt which extends through said transverse hole to mount the display unit.

27. A display unit (1) as claimed in claim 24, 25 or 26, wherein an electrical connection is provided from the lamppost (2) to the display unit for supplying electricity to a light.

28. A kit of parts for assembling a display unit (1) as claimed in any preceding claim.

29. A display frame (1) mounted on an erected post (2) whereby the post has holes (7) aligned horizontally and a threaded rod or pin (9, 11) is inserted through the aligned holes and retained in position, the display frame further comprising sign changing means having a sign or poster carrier assembly (41) attached to a drop-down support legs (46) such that the sign or poster carrier assembly can be lowered from the display frame; characterised in that the apparatus further comprises a circular profile tube which is used as a rainwater channel (19) and has holes which align with the horizontally aligned holes in the post, and a top cover moulding (17) is fitted to the post prior to attachment of the other display frame components.

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30. A display frame (1) as claimed in claim 29, wherein two sets of aligned holes (7) are provided in spaced relation, one above the other with a threaded rod or pin (9, 11) inserted and retained in each set of aligned holes.

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